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United States Embassy Skopje, Macedonia Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Demonstration in Skopje Center on February 24, 2017 at 17:00h

The U.S. Embassy in Skopje informs U.S. citizens that a nationalist organization known as "Tvrdokorni" ("Hard-core") has called for a demonstration today, February 24th, 2017 at 17:00 to "defend the national and state interests of Macedonia and its devoted citizens." Demonstrators plan to gather in front of St. Clement of Ohrid on Partizanski Odredi Blvd and walk to the Parliament building on 11 Oktomvri Street.

Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. You should avoid areas of demonstrations, and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations.

For further information:

- See the <u>State Department's travel website</u> for the <u>Worldwide Caution</u>, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and <u>Macedonia Country Specific Information</u>.
- Enroll in the <u>Smart Traveler Enrollment Program</u> (<u>STEP</u>) to receive security messages and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Contact the U.S. Embassy in Macedonia, located at Samoilova 21, 1000 Skopje, at tel: (02) 310-2000 within Macedonia, or (+389) (2) 310-2000 internationally, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. After-hours emergency number for U.S. citizens is (02) 310-2000.
- Call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).